

### **Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace paragraph [0001] as follows:

[0001] The present invention relates to an electrical switching device designed for low voltage, in particular a circuit-breaker or contactor, having at least one arc-quenching device, ~~as set forth in the preamble of Claim 1~~ having externally accessible terminal contacts being secured in position in a housing which can be closed by a cover and in which interrupting chambers are formed; and each interrupting chamber having disposed therein a stationary switching contact, a movable switching contact cooperating with said stationary switching contact, as well as at least one arc-quenching device.

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0002]:

### **BACKGROUND**

Please replace paragraph [0003] with the following amended paragraph:

[0003] DE 41 09 717 C1 discloses a contactor including an electromagnetic operating mechanism which is arranged in a multi-part housing, switching contacts which are accommodated in an interrupting chamber, and further including arc splitter plates which are associated with the switching contacts and form extinguishing chambers, and which are accommodated in a top housing part which can be closed by a cover. The arc splitter plates, which are assembled by means of insulating plates to form arc splitter plate stacks and are inserted into the housing chambers, are resiliently pressed and clamped against the wall of the top housing part by means of end legs of commutation plates, said end legs being bent in a double U-shape.

Please replace paragraph [0004] with the following amended paragraph:

[0004] In a contactor according to DE 198 14 411 C1, the uppermost arc splitter plate, which faces the cover and is designed as a shield plate, ~~each~~ has two clips which are bent upward. Recesses corresponding to the clips are formed on the inner side of the cover. The extinguishing chambers can be fastened to the cover by inserting the clips in the recesses, forming a positive-locking joint.

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0005]:

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace paragraph [0005] with the following amended paragraph:

[0005] ~~The~~ It is an object of the present invention ~~is to make switching devices suitable for switching operation in different current ranges~~ in a simple manner ~~using simple means.~~

Please delete paragraph [0006].

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0009]:

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0015]:

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF AN EMBODIMENT

Please replace paragraph [0015] with the following amended paragraph:

[0015] Figure 1 shows the top part of a multi-part housing 2 and a two-part cover 4, which closes the housing 2, of an electrical switching device, such as a three-pole contactor. For each pole, two contact straps 6 are secured in position in housing 2, said contact straps having externally accessible terminal contacts 8. Contact straps 6 extend into interrupting chambers 10, which are laterally bounded by inner walls 12 formed in housing 12. On the interrupting chamber side, contact straps 6 are provided with stationary switching contacts 14, which cooperate in a known manner with movable switching contacts (~~not shown~~ schematically as 29 in Fig. 5) in the form of contact bridges. An arc-quenching device, either in the form of a U-shaped cooling plate 16 or in the form of an arc splitter plate stack 18 of spaced-apart stacked arc splitter plates 20, can be inserted into each interrupting chamber 10. To this end, guide and retaining elements are formed in housing 2 and in cover 4, said guide and retaining elements being described in more detail below. In each interrupting chamber 10, the mounting position of cooling plate 16 and the mounting position of arc splitter plate stack 18 extend one behind the other with respect to the longitudinal direction of the respective switch pole. In this connection, the mounting position of

cooling plates 16 is closer to stationary switching contacts 14, while the mounting position of the arc splitter plate stacks 18 is closer to terminal contacts 8.

Please amend the heading on top of page 5 as follows:

~~PATENT CLAIMS~~ WHAT IS CLAIMED IS: